ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SELECTMEN, TREASURER,

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

AND

OVERSEER OF THE POOR

OF THE

TOWN OF THORNTON,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 1, 1878.

PLYMOUTH, N. H.
GRAFTON COUNTY JOURNAL PRINT, KIMBALL & TEMPLE, PROPRIETORS.
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REPORT OF THE SELECTMEN.

The Selectmen of the Town of Thornton charge themselves as follows:

Received on notes,	$1,560 40
of State, bounty on wild animals,	110 00
County, for support of paupers,	764 25
State, savings bank tax and literary fund,	145 20
Selectmen of 1876, to balance account,	14 59
J. W. Pattee, on Taylor fund note,	115 00
J. W. Pattee, interest on Taylor fund note,	10 17
I. H. Wyatt, discount on bill,	50
	$2,720 11

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Paid town treasurer,	$2,720 11

ORDERS GIVEN ON THE TREASURY FOR THE FOLLOWING SUMS.

Paid on town notes,	$3,567 47
Paid School agent, district No. 1, 1877–6,	175 12
" " 2, 1877–6,	159 97
" " 4, 1877,	98 15
" " 5, 1877–6,	135 78
" " 6, 1877,	87 69
" " 7, 1877,	47 50
" " 8, 1877,	53 24
" " 9, 1877,	74 00
" " 11, 1877,	46 32
" " 12, 1877,	39 85
Amount carried forward,	$917 62

Amount brought forward,	$917 62
Paid S. D. Fadden, bill,	1 90
O. F. James for books, stationery, etc., for treasurer's office,	10 70
E. Elliott, expenses of defense of the Emmons suit,	28 00
E. Elliott, services as selectman and money paid out,	4 50
Daniel Peaslee for work on highway,	5 00
to Selectmen for tender,	35 00
Romanzo Johnson for sheep killed by dogs,	6 21
John Foster for sheep killed by dogs,	6 21
Kimball & Flanders for printing reports, of 1876,	25 00
B. M. B. Selingham, overseer of the poor,	934 71
S. Sanborn, services as liquor agent, 1876,	45 00
I. H. Wyatt, bounty on bear,	10 00
H. M. Tobyne, highway surveyor, 1876,	6 62
B, W. Sanborn for books,	6 50
Jonathan P. Mason, building committee, district No. 9,	82 55
R. Johnson, building committee, district No. 4,	18 66
G. W. Merrill for plank,	7 17
F. A. Barnard, school-house tax, district No 6,	9 30
Hiram Merrill for work on highway,	8 75
I. H. Wyatt, bounty on bear,	10 00
State treasurer, State tax for 1877,	384 00
County treasurer, county tax for 1877,	528 98
Jonathan Moulton for sawing lumber,	22 50
P. P. Elkins for repairing causeway,	75 00
G. R. Tucker, bounty on bear and foxes,	11 00
N. S. Woodbury, bounty on eight foxes,	4 00
H. F. Durgin, Jr., for lumber and work on highway,	6 69
Hiram Merrill for work on highway,	7 16
W. C. Merrill for work on covered bridge,	3 00
A. A. Straw for work on highway,	9 37
F. M. Marden for work on highway,	9 50
Building committee in district No. 2,	238 00
S. W. Constantine for bolts and rods for Town Hall,	9 20
Jacob Percival for public water-trough,	3 00
Amount carried forward,	$3,490 80

Amount brought forward,	$3,490 80
Paid J. W. Pattee for time and expense of prosecution, as per vote of the town,	6 00
William G. Gilman for lumber,	2 75
J. L. Barnard, services as S. S. committee,	33 00
J. L. Barnard for money paid out and services as S. S. committee, locating school house, district No. 2,	8 75
B. W. Sanborn for books,	2 50
Wm. Willey for work on highway,	1 00
H. N. Clay for work on highway,	5 75
A. Robie for work on highway,	3 00
Romanzo Johnson, for work on highway,	1 50
B. L. Peaslee, for work on highway,	18 36
B. M. B. Selingham, for work on highway and lumber,	17 06
Isaac Fox, for lumber,	13 94
J. B. Sanborn, highway bill,	8 00
J. E. Pattee, for public water-trough,	1 50
Charles Shute, for lumber,	2 24
J. S. Bagley, services as constable,	1 50
Wm. H. Weeks, for repairing bridge,	5 00
C. H. Weeks, for stationery, nails, powder and fuse,	6 19
O. F. James, for lumber and work on highway,	30 40
C. H. Hall, for work on highway,	8 25
Arthur Foss, for work on highway,	9 62
S. A. Foss, for work on highway and lumber,	24 00
J. F. Emmons, for lumber,	6 00
H. M. Tobyne, for work on highway,	10 00
Carter Foss, for work on highway and lumber,	27 92
Mary A. Avery, sheep killed by dog,	2 50
Benjamin Steele, public water-trough,	3 00
J. W. Pattee, for secretary for town clerk's office,	30 00
J. W. Pattee, design for secretary,	2 50
D. & D. F. Peaslee, for work on highway,	9 15
John Johnson, for public water-trough,	1 00
J. T. Wood, for repairing bridge,	16 50
J. M. Fox, for work on highway,	2 00
A. P. Wood, jr., work on highway,	13 50
G. R. Tucker, work on highway,	3 75
Wm. T. Snow, work on highway,	8 38
Amount carried forward,	$3,839 31

Amount brought forward,	$3,839 31
Paid H V. Hart for work on town house,	9 00
H. N. Clay for taking care of town house,	3 26
Daniel Peaslee for work on highway, 1876,	13 15
M. B. Cone, coll. taxes on R. B. Tucker place,	45 06
M. B. Cone, services as Justice and Auditor, 1876,	16 15
C. R. E. for public water-trough,	2 00
O. F. James for bounty paid on foxes and hawks.	3 10
B. M. B. Selingham, services as overseer of the poor,	35 50
C. P. Sargent, services as town clerk,	20 00
Wm. H. Gordon, services as town treasurer,	40 00
O. F. James for money paid out doing town business,	11 89
O. F. James for work on town house,	4 50
O. F. James for money paid out for board of Selectmen,	19 00
O. F. James for services as Selectman to March 1st, 1878,	103 25
G. H. Perry for work on highway,	8 25
A. Lyford, services as auditor and use of public water-trough,	5 00
B. M. B. Selingham for money paid out for stationery, etc.,	5 00
John Johnson for services as Selectman,	42 80
O. C. Foss for services as Selectman,	45 50
Dexter Merrill for sheep killed by dogs,	6 00
	$4.277 72
Total amount of orders given on the treasurer,	$7,843 19

INDEBTEDNESS.

DUE ON NOTES.

E. L. Foss,	$3,964 00
Phebe Cross,	746 00
S. C. Robinson,	1,575 00
A. Lyford,	511 00
M. Greeley,	2,743 00
Lizzie M. Greeley,	1,381 00
Louis Dearborn,	25 00
C. E. Dearborn,	14 00
Mehitable Foss,	200 00
Betsy Paige,	254 00
Martin L. Paige,	395 00
E. M. Steele,	25 00
Willis Sanborn,	41 00
S. J. Woodbury,	337 00
M. W. Hazeltine,	80 00
H. E. Hannaford,	1,890 00
Arthur Merrill,	1,415 00
C. & B. Shute,	33 00
L. G. Lyford,	60 00
C. Durgin,	69 00
A. P. Wood, Jr.,	120 00
S. J. Keniston,	1,624 00
A. P. Wood,	517 00
Minnie Elliott,	24 00
S. A. Homans,	412 00
Sarah Steele,	622 00
L. E. Boynton,	192 00
C. H. Boynton,	426 00
Emily Durgin,	102 00
Moses Boynton,	118 00
H. C. Boynton,	118 00
Herod Fifield,	385 00
S. Sanborn,	104 00
George Jenkins,	352 00
R. E. Sanborn,	298 00
H. F. Durgin,	586 00
H. M. Fifield,	59 00
Amount carried forward.	$21,817 00

Amount brought forward,	$21,817 00
R. C. Sanborn,	765 00
C. Shute,	119 00
Judith Foss,	71 00
Carter Foss,	205 00
J. H. Peaslee,	1,994 00
B. M. B. Selingham,	155 00
L. T. Jackman.	10 00
J. R. Selingham,	19 00
M. R. Peaslee,	755 00
John F. Morrill, guardian,	333 00
A. L. Durgin,	269 00
S. A. Selingham,	419 00
J. A. Sanborn,	163 00
M. D. Way,	224 00
A. Caldon,	300 00
Lydia Woodbury,	216 00
Caroline Tucker,	35 00
A. S. Sanborn,	286 00
Willie Baker,	40 00
M. B. Woodbury,	12 00
Lucy A. Elliott,	145 00
Benj. Sanborn,	528 00
S. B. Cone,	243 00
Barnard Paige,	728 00
Mary E. Willey,	169 00
F. H. Plummer,	273 00
L. B. Shute,	140 00
George Cook,	110 00
L. E. Dolloff,	51 00
W. P. Houston,	37 00
O. Vincent,	23 00
E. H. Merrill,	125 00
O. F. James,	37 00
R. E. Lee Hazeltine,	33 00
E. Clement,	42 00
Georgie Adams,	527 00
Bertha Blanche Hodsdon,	6 00
Thomas Gray,	210 00
Amount carried forward,	$31,314 00

Amount brought forward,	$31,314 00	
Rhoda T. Melcher,	52 00	
Nellie Sanborn,	29 00	
Fred P. Marden,	250 00	
		$31,645 00
Amount of town debt,	31,960 00	
Assets,	5,769 66	
Amount of debt less assets,		$26,190 34

ASSETS.

In Collector's hands for 1868,	$30 00	
" " 1873,	154 00	
" " 1875,	75 00	
" " 1876,	150 00	
" " 1877,	3,000 00	
Due from State for bounties,	37 60	
" county for support of paupers,	186 25	
In treasurer's hands March 1, 1878,	1,813 57	
Interest due on Taylor fund,	213 01	
In liquor agent's hands, liquor and barrels at cost,	20 78	
Cash in the hands of overseer of poor,	89 45	
		$5,769 66

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STATEMENT OF TAYLOR FUND.

J. W. Pattee,	$70 00	
N. H. Weeks,	265 00	
Town of Thornton,	442 50	
C. F. Bowen farm,	205 00	
R. A. Horner,	63 17	$1,045 67
School fund, Town of Thornton,		$1,312 50

ORRIN F. JAMES,
OSMOND C. FOSS,
JOHN JOHNSON,
Selectmen of Thornton.

13125 0
6
78753 0

REPORT OF THE OVERSEER OF THE POOR.

Money received of the town of Thornton per order from the Selectmen on the treasurer,		$934 71

PAID FOR COUNTY PAUPERS.

Sally Packard,	$52 00	
Stephen Foss,	87 92	
Jacob Benton,	68 48	
Julius M. Fox,	229 85	
John Tucker,	25 34	
S. D. Fadden,	282 25	
Jane Merrill and child,	25 67	
Joshua Chalman,	5 00	
Alfred Bowen,	14 53	
Mary F. Whitney,	5 00	
Mrs. A. P. Knowles,	5 00	
Benjamin Tucker,	27 22	
Paid for tramps,	15 25	
Books for county pauper children,	95	
		$844 46

PAID FOR TOWN PAUPERS.

Joshua Merrill,	$44 25
Money in the hands of the overseer of the poor,	$89 45

B. M. B. SELINGHAM, *Overseer of the Poor.*

TREASURER'S REPORT.

FROM MARCH 1st, 1877, TO MARCH 1st, 1878.

In treasury March 1st, 1877,				$402 20
Received of the Selectmen,				2,720 11
Moody B. Cone,	Col.,	1874,		125 00
"	"	1875,		784 00
"	"	1876,		2,530 00
"	"	1876,	S. D. No. 9,	87 55
"	"	1876,	" 6,	10 00
"	"	1877,	" 2,	238 00
"	"	1877,		2,207 14
C. H. Weeks,	"	1871,		16 81
"	"	1872,		4 87
"	"	1873,		371 83
"	L. ag't.,	1875,		73 61
S. Sanborn,	"	1876,		85 64
				$9,656 76
Money paid out by order of the selectmen,				7,843 19
Money in the treasury March 1st, 1878,				$1,813 57

☞As the selectmen's report will specify the items for the orders given on the treasurer, it is not expedient for them to be given in this report, as the orders are all on file in the treasurer's office to which any reference required may be made.

WILLIAM H. GORDON, *Town Treasurer.*

AUDITORS' REPORT.

Having examined the accounts of the selectmen and treasurer of the town of Thornton for the year ending March 1st, 1878, we find them correctly cast and properly vouched.

EPHRAIM ELLIOTT,
DANFORTH FOSS, } *Auditors.*

REPORT OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen of the town of Thornton.

GENTLEMEN:—The time having arrived at which the laws of the State require me to give the town an account of the condition of our schools the past year, I would most respectfully submit the following report.

DISTRICT NO 1.

Summer term, taught by Miss Gertrude McCausland. This was a pleasant and profitable school. Miss McCausland labored earnestly and successfully in this school, and gave general satisfaction. Good order was sustained throughout the term, and commendable progress was the result.

Second term, taught by Mrs. Olive A. Weeks. Mrs. Weeks has had much experience in teaching, having taught twenty-nine terms, and ten or twelve in this town, in former years. She has always sustained a good reputation as an instructress. From some cause unknown to your committee, quite a large number of the scholars were absent from the school during the latter part of the term. Those that attended regularly throughout the term made fair improvement. A few examples of punctuality in this school are worthy of imitation: Melvina James, Minnie James and Linnie L. James had neither an absent, tardy, or dismissal mark during the whole term of fourteen weeks.

DISTRICT NO. 2.

Two terms taught by Miss Mary E. Tilton, a young lady of high moral and intellectual culture, with rare tact and ability requisite for a successful teacher. Scholars under her charge cannot pass over anything until they thoroughly under-

stand it. This school was a success in every particular, and in every rsspect creditable to both teacher and scholars. Fortunate is the district that secures Miss Tilton's services.

District No. 4.

Summer term taught by Miss Rosa P. Hill. This was a quiet, pleasant little school, the scholars loved their teacher, and made fair improvement, although some of them were not as thorough in the rudiments of arithmetic as they should have been.

Second term taught by Miss Fred H. Evans. Miss Evans' reputation for a successful teacher is too well established in this vicinity to require any encomiums from me. As usual Miss Evans was eminently successful in this school. Perfect satisfaction was given to all concerned.

District No. 5.

Summer term taught by Arzelia C. Clay. Miss Clay is an experienced teacher, a fine scholar, and a graduate from the State Normal School. Her method of teaching is quite different from most teachers. She, to a great extent, ignored the use of text books, and substituted oral instruction instead. In the opinion of your committee, better order, less gymnastics, and more study would have been an improvement in this school.

Fall term taught by Miss Laura E. Bowles. This school ranks among the best in regard to order and improvement. Miss Bowles is an experienced teacher, a good disciplinarian, and everything pertaining to the school was managed systematically, and the school was successful in every respect.

District No. 6.

Summer term taught by Miss Jennie M. Kinsman. This was a very pleasant and profitable little school. Perfect order and neatness pervaded the school room. The instruction given was thorough, and perfect satisfaction was given to all concerned. This was the fifth term that Miss Kinsman has taught in this district, which shows that her services are appreciated.

Second term taught by Miss Sarah M. Sargent. Miss Sargent is a young lady of good literary attainments, and a Normal school graduate, still she did not give general satisfaction

in this district. Some of the scholars made fair improvement. In the opinion of your committee, more energy and earnest effort on the part of the teacher would have been an improvement.

District No. 7.

One term taught by Miss Viny C. Boynton. Miss Boynton is an earnest laborer in the school room. This school was well managed, and the scholars made good progress in all branches.

District No. 8.

Two terms taught by Miss Ida F. Norris. Miss Norris is an estimable young lady, possessing energy and ability that will insure success under almost any circumstances. This school was in every respect creditable to the teacher.

District No. 9.

One term of fourteen weeks taught by Miss Mary Sargent. This was Miss Sargent's first effort in teaching. I am unable to give a very definite report in regard to the progress made in this school, for the reason that only seven of the twenty-four different scholars were present at the closing examination. Good order appeared to have been sustained throughout the term. In the opinion of your committee, the teaching of this school was too great an undertaking for a young lady only sixteen years of age. Miss Sargent possesses energy and ability requisite for a successful instructress, and with more experience will, in my opinion, rank among our best teachers.

District No. 11.

One term; the first seven weeks of which were taught by Miss Mary F. Whitney. Miss Whitney labored diligently and earnestly in this school, and accomplished all that could be expected in so short a term. The last five weeks of the term were taught by Mrs. Olive A. Weeks. Your committee cannot from personal knowledge give a very correct account of the progress made in this school, from the fact that only three schol-

ars were present at the closing examination; but I presume that satisfaction was given, as I heard no complaint from any source.

District No. 12.

One term taught by Miss Gertrude McCausland. In this school Miss McCausland well sustained her former reputation. Thorough instruction was imparted, and the school was in every respect satisfactory to your committee.

GENERAL REMARKS.

District agents have, with very few exceptions, been remarkable fortunate in the selection of teachers the past year. Our schools as a whole have been worthy of commendation. There is an evil existing in some of our schools to an alarming extent that teachers cannot remedy; that is irregularity of attendance. It frustrates the efforts of our best teachers, and greatly retards the progress of the school. If scholars are absent from school one or two days each week, they fall behind their class, lose their interest, get discouraged, and the school is but very little benefit to them. In district No. 9, the whole number of different scholars was twenty-four, and the average attendance only sixteen. Now it cannot be expected that in a school like this much improvement can be made, even with the best of teachers. Parents should take this matter in hand, and see that their children are at school every day if possible; and assist the teacher in sustaining good order in school, not by taking, in the slightest degree, the government out of the teacher's hands, but by coöperating in every proper way, so as to give the impression that the teacher is governor and must be sustained. And if you hear any report derogatory to the teacher, don't keep your children from school, but go to the school yourselves, and ascertain the facts in the case, and if the teacher is at fault, call in the proper authority, and have the teacher dismissed, and another procured in her place. A teacher, even the best, to be useful in the school room, must have the sympathy, coöperation, and support of the district. I wish to say a congratulatory word in regard to the beautiful school-house, which has been erected the past year in district No. 2, on Mad River Street. It is a structure which the inhabitants of the district can look upon with justifiable pride.

It is an honor to the district and the town. Now as district No. 2 has taken the lead in this matter, and set such a commendable example, I earnestly hope that other districts in town will "go and do likewise."

In conclusion, I would recommend to parents to manifest a more lively interest in our common schools; the importance of the cause demands it. Here is where our children, to a great degree, form their characters and habits for life. Therefore it is of the greatest importance that our schools should be raised to the highest standard of perfection possible. Let us then, one and all take hold of this matter with a determination that will insure success, always imploring the Divine blessing to rest upon our efforts, and crown them with success.

JOHN L. BARNARD,

School Committee of Thornton.

Thornton, March 1st, 1878.